

For Immediate Release:  
October 8, 2002

Contact: Marla Viorst  
202/226-7747

## **Congresswoman Capps to Oppose President's Resolution Authorizing the Use of Force Against Iraq**

Washington, D.C.—Today Congresswoman Lois Capps announced she will vote against the President's resolution authorizing the use of force to disarm the Iraqi regime and remove Saddam Hussein from power. The resolution would give President Bush the congressional backing he seeks to support a unilateral, preemptive attack against Iraq when and if he believes it is necessary. The final vote is expected Thursday.

"There is no question that Saddam Hussein is a villain and a menace, to his own people and the rest of the world," said Congresswoman Capps. "However, after much careful consideration, I have determined that the President's resolution does not advance our national security. I think that giving the President the authorization to use force against Iraq before we have explored all our options is premature and potentially dangerous."

Congresswoman Capps has repeatedly expressed her concerns about preemptive, unilateral military action against Iraq. These concerns include possibly undermining the current multilateral war against terrorism, destabilizing moderate nations in the Middle East, further inflaming the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, and the possible huge loss of American soldiers and Iraqi civilians.

"I have not yet seen or heard any convincing evidence that Saddam Hussein is an immediate threat to our national security," added Capps. "Military action should always be a last resort, and we should work in concert with our allies and the U.N. to exhaust every possible diplomatic and economic solution to this problem. At this time I do not believe the case has been made that force is the only option left to us."

Congresswoman Capps will be giving a speech on the floor of the House outlining her opposition to the resolution on Wednesday. She will also support an alternative resolution that calls for the continuation of U.N. efforts to return inspectors to Iraq and supports the use of force only as part of the U.N.'s efforts to disarm Iraq.

###

